

Sterling C. Robertson House
Salado, Texas

HABS No. Tex-394

HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Texas-3

Historic American Buildings Survey
Bartlett Cooke, District Officer
615 Maverick Bldg., San Antonio, Texas

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THE STERLING C. ROBERTSON HOUSE
Salado, Bell County, Texas

Owner: Sterling C. Robertson, III.

Date of Erection: 1854

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Present Condition:

Main House: State of preservation is fair. Except for flooring on porches, screens in shutter frames, siding on interior walls of "Parlor" and "Library and Music" rooms, and wall paper in all other rooms, the remainder of the house is original. The "Passway" between the "Kitchen and Dining Unit" was added about 1900. In 1919 the plaster was removed from the interior walls and partitions and all rooms were papered except "Parlor" and "Library and Music" rooms which were at that time finished with tongue and groove siding.

Kitchen and Dining Unit: Closet has been built in Kitchen (about 1900) and serving shelf through wall between kitchen and dining room was then closed.

Fireplace opening in Dining Room has been reduced in size. All else in this unit is original.

Servants' Quarters: Fair state of condition. In room one the windows are original. The door in above mentioned room is not original. In rear of rooms two, three, and four, windows are original. Original windows appear in no other openings; these openings have been boarded up. In rooms five and six there was originally a window in the rear of each room. They are at present walled in and trace of original openings is not detectable. Double fireplace and partition wall originally separated rooms five and six, but door and front window of room five have been removed and garage door has been made in wall. Door of room six has been removed for the same purpose. Of the fireplaces and partition wall between rooms five and six only the foundation now remains.

Barn: Fair state of condition. Roof not original.

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Number of Stories:

Main House: two stories.
Kitchen and Dining Unit: one story.
Servants' Quarters: one story.
Barn: one story and loft.
Passway: one story.

Materials of Construction:

Main House: Foundation of limestone; floors, pine; exterior and interior walls of pine siding and sheathing respectively; roof, tin, painted red.
Kitchen and Dining Unit: Foundation of limestone; walls, limestone; roof, same as on Main House.
Servants' Quarters: Foundation of limestone; floors, pine; walls, limestone; roof, shingles.
Barn: Central portion of limestone; all other walls of vertical pine boards; floor in loft of planks; all other floors, dirt; roof, shingles.
Passway: (not original), foundation of limestone, walls, frame; floor, pine; roof, tin, painted red.

Other Existing Records:

"History of Bell County", compiled by Judge George Tyler, edited by Dr. Charles W. Ramsdell.
"A History of Texas and Texans", American Historical Society, Vol. V., published in 1914.
"Dallas Morning News" (article) in 1927, 1928, February 18, 1934.
"San Antonio Express" (article) August 5, 1934.
"Temple Telegram", Centennial Edition, April 17, 1936.
Other Articles.

Additional Data:

Sterling C. Robertson, the empresario, had a contract with

the Mexican Government to settle 90,000 acres of land in the Salado community. His son, E. Sterling C. Robertson, came to Salado in 1853. He donated land for Salado College, twenty acres of which were to be used by the college and the remainder to be divided into lots and sold, the proceeds of which were to go to the building of the college. Also built the first courthouse.

Note:

"Kitchen and Dining" unit refers to that structure connected to the Main House by the "Passway" of a later date, and consists of kitchen, dining room, milk room, laundry, and meat room. Room numbers refer to numbers assigned rooms on the HABS drawings.

This information was received from Mr. and Mrs. Sterling C. Robertson, III, Salado, Texas, and Miss Ratchford, of the Wrenn Library, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

Author

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APPROVED

Bartlett Cooke
Bartlett Cooke, District Officer

W 7/26/57